

1 Amendments to the Claims:

2 Please cancel claims 1-19 and add new claims 20-39, as indicated below:

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4 Claim 20 (new) A continuous process for forming a transdermal patch, which
5 comprises the steps of:

6 continuously feeding at a first linear speed a strip of materials comprising a
7 disposable layer, a layer of adhesive and a layer of a permeable membrane;

8 continuously feeding in close proximity and in face-to-face relationship with the
9 first strip at least one second strip formed of impermeable backing material(s), at the
10 same first linear speed;

11 passing the first and second strips together through a first sealing station at which
12 at least the opposed longitudinal edge regions of the strips are secured together,
13 optionally with intermediate regions being secured along their lengths, so as to form at
14 least one elongate chamber;

15 passing the first and second strips joined at least at their longitudinal edges,
16 through a second sealing station at which the strips are sealed to each other
17 transversely at intervals along the strips, whereby the or each chamber becomes an
18 open-topped pouch having an open edge;

19 introducing one of a liquid or a gel containing an active substance into the pouch
20 or pouches, once formed; and

21 sealing the pouches along their previously open edges so as to form completely
22 sealed pouches.

23
24 Claim 21 (new) A continuous process as claimed in claim 20, in which, at the
25 second sealing station the previously open region of a pouch or pouches is sealed and
the sealing simultaneously closes the adjacent region of the pouch or pouches
immediately upstream of the first mentioned pouch or pouches.

Claim 22 (new) A continuous process as claimed in claim 20 or 21, further
including a separation cutting step in which a transverse cutting exercise takes place so
as to separate one sealed pouch containing the active substance from the adjacent
pouches upstream and downstream.

1 Claim 23 (new) A continuous process as claimed in any one of the preceding
2 claims, in which a "kiss-cut" function is provided at the separation cutting step.

3 Claim 24 (new) A continuous process as claimed in any one of the preceding
4 claims, in which the two strips are first brought together and sealed along their
5 longitudinal edges and separately or simultaneously one or more additional longitudinal
6 seals are created intermediate the edge region seals thereby creating two or more
7 laterally adjacent pouches across the width of the strips.

8 Claim 25 (new) A continuous process as claimed in claim 24, in which the laterally
9 adjacent pouches are separated in a longitudinal cutting step in which rollers, at least
10 one of which has a cutting edge, act on opposite sides of the join strips, so as to
11 separate the laterally adjacent pouches.

12 Claim 26 (new): A continuous process as claimed in any one of claims 20 through
13 25, and further comprising a gas flushing step in which the or each pouch is flushed with
14 gas prior to the step in which liquid or the gel is introduced.

15 Claim 27 (new): A continuous process as claimed in any one of claims 20 through
16 25, and further comprising a gas flushing step in which the or each pouch is flushed with
17 gas during the step in which the liquid or the gel is introduced.

18 Claim 28 (new): A continuous process as claimed in any one of claims 20 through
19 25, and further comprising a gas flushing step in which the or each pouch is flushed with
20 gas prior to and during the step in which the liquid or the gel is introduced.

21 Claim 29 (new) A continuous process as claimed in any one of claims 26 through
22 28, in which in the gas flushing step, a small bore tube is placed adjacent the liquid
23 delivery tube and flushing gas is ejected from the tube directly into the pouch.

24 Claim 30 (new) A continuous process as claimed in any one of the preceding
25 claims, in which the filling and sealing steps are effected at a pressure lower than
atmospheric pressure.

1 Claim 31 (new) A continuous process as claimed in any one of the preceding
2 claims, in which the sealing of adjacent strips is effected by opposing pairs of
3 longitudinal or transverse sealing devices.

4 Claim 32 (new) A continuous process as claimed in claim 31, in which the means
5 by which the liquid containing the active substance is introduced takes the form of a
6 filling tube which is inserted into each pouch.

7 Claim 33 (new) A continuous process as claimed in claim 32 in which the lower end
8 of the filling tube is at a level considerably below the axis of rotation of the sealing
9 devices.

10 Claim 34 (new) A continuous process as claimed in claim 31 or 32, in which the
11 filling tube is positioned at a level just above where the transverse sealing devices are
12 disposed.

13 Claim 35 (new) A continuous process as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 34,
14 further comprising the step of adjusting the number of pouches being produced side by
15 side, the step comprising adding or removing one or more pairs of longitudinal sealing
16 devices and adjusting the location of the intermediate sealing devices.

17 Claim 36 (new) A continuous process as claimed in any one of claims 31 to 35,
18 further comprising the step of adjusting the size of the pouches, the step comprising
19 adjusting the timing of transverse sealing devices, thereby changing the length of the
20 pouches.

21 Claim 37 (new) A continuous process as claimed in any one of the preceding
22 claims, in which the size of the pouches is not less than 2cm^2 .

23 Claim 38 (new) A continuous process as claimed in any one of the preceding
24 claims, in which the strips are fed in a substantially vertical direction and the liquid or the
25 gel containing an active ingredient is introduced into the pouch or pouches in a
substantially vertical direction.

1 Claim 39 (new) A continuous process as claimed in any one of claims 20 to 37, in
2 which the strips are fed in a substantially horizontal direction and the liquid or the gel
3 containing an active ingredient is introduced into the pouch or pouches in a substantially
4 vertical direction.

5 (End of Amendment "A")

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